

# IRNR and eXtension

[extension.org](http://extension.org)

eXtension, an educational partnership of 74 universities in the United States, provides objective and research-based information and learning opportunities that help people improve their lives.



eXtension is an interactive learning environment delivering the best, most researched knowledge from the smartest land-grant university minds across America. eXtension connects knowledge consumers with knowledge providers—experts who know their subject matter inside out.

## eXtension offers

- Credible expertise
- Reliable answers based upon sound research
- Connections to the best minds in American universities
- Creative solutions to today's complex challenges
- Customized answers to your specific needs
- Trustworthy, field-tested data
- Dynamic, relevant and timely answers

eXtension is unlike any other search engine or information-based website. It's a space where university content providers can gather and produce new educational and informative resources on wide-ranging topics. Because it's available to students, researchers, clinicians, professors as well as the public at any time from any Internet connection, eXtension helps solve real-life problems in real time.

## IRNR Role in eXtension

eXtension relies on a network of staff from multiple institutions to help support, develop and maintain Communities of Practice (CoP). A CoP is a network of individuals who come together to provide information, expertise and knowledge for a topic area. eXtension CoPs are individuals from the 79 land grant universities as well as partners from organizations, agencies, businesses and private individuals who collaborate in resource areas to form a community. More than 67 CoPs currently exist.

Amy Hays, a program specialist with Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources, serves as an at-large resource. In her role of CoP support, Hays assists new CoPs in developing content to launch publicly and supports existing CoPs in management and content enhancement.

Some of the CoPs served:

- Rangelands
- Companion Animals
- Precision Agriculture
- Grape
- All About Blueberries
- Land Use Planning: Community Planning and Zoning
- Map@Syst
- Community Health
- Feral Hogs
- Urban Forestry and Energy Conservations

In addition to CoP Support, Hays helps support Texas AgriLife Extension Service efforts in eXtension by providing a local institutional resource for faculty and staff.

